

Marrakech
Partnership



CLIMATE WEEK

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Stepping Up Action on Delivering a Resilient Future

Asia Pacific Climate Week, 3 September 2019,
Bangkok, Thailand

Outcomes from the Day and Messages for UNSG's Climate Action Summit

Convened by the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), with partners, and supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID)



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I. Objectives and Background

Later this month, world leaders will gather in New York to meet the UN Secretary General's call for ambitious action to combat climate change. This APCW affiliated event "*Stepping up Actions on Delivering a Resilient Future*" was held to provide stakeholders from Asia and the Pacific with the opportunity to raise the need for urgent action and share how this particularly vulnerable region is finding unique and effective ways to build resilience to climate change. The day complements the event held at Africa Climate Week, [*Stepping Up Action on Building Climate Resilience Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa*](#). This event had three objectives:

1. Explore transformative resilience-building actions, initiatives, policies, technologies, and financial innovations taken by governments, grassroots organizations, CSOs, businesses, insurers and investors to ensure climate just transition in the Asia Pacific context.
2. Set out how the latest knowledge and understanding on resilience can be used to build and invest in adaptive, resilient and transformative communities and economies.
3. Raise awareness and deepen the knowledge on inclusive and intersectional resilience-building approaches among government officials, practitioners, academia and the private sector, to ensure no one is left behind.

The programme of the day is available [here](#).

We are in a period of increased volatility and unpredictability. Climate-related disasters and shocks are occurring more frequently, accounting for 91% of all major recorded events between 1998 and 2017. The exposure to more complex, frequent and intense climate extremes is threatening to erode and even reverse development gains. Over the last 10 years, climate extremes affected an average of 152 million people and caused USD 127 billion in damage in Asia and the Pacific each year. In 2018 alone, climate and natural disasters pushed 29 million people into situations of acute food insecurity.

There is an urgent need to scale up action and investment into climate resilience within and across sectors worldwide and, in particular, in Asia and the Pacific. Asia contains 10 of the world's 16 countries most vulnerable to climate change and 5 of the Small Island Development States that are most at risk worldwide. This was reinforced by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees with a call to strengthen the global response and to enhance climate resilience of all societies, but especially those who will be hardest hit such as the poorest and most vulnerable.

Therefore, a shared understanding of climate resilience with a suite of risk and sector specific interventions is essential so that all levels of society can formulate and implement climate actions at scale and hand in hand with mitigation efforts. This is why climate resilience continues to be a crosscutting theme essential for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region and around the world.

This event was convened by the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) and its partners, under the Climate Resilience Network on behalf of the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action. It was organised by: Asia Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Concern International, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Mercy Corps, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Practical Action, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), UNDP. It was supported by UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

II. Main messages from the Day

1. Community empowerment and engagement

To build resilience it is essential that communities who are impacted by climate change are at the centre of decisions and actions. This means seeing and making communities as agents of change.

2. Quality and volume of resilience – getting money to where it matters

The volume and quality of investments into building resilience is needed. Barriers to financing need to be removed and blended public and private finance is required. Ensuring significant and accelerated financing reaches local communities is essential along with getting money to where and when it matters the most.

3. Connecting the dots - taking systems approach

The international development community needs to urgently embrace a systems approach as a means of better identifying complex climate change risks as well as adaptive capacities for dealing with them. Without this, critical influencing and enabling conditions may be missed, thus throwing adaptation activities off track, limiting their sustainability, or even contributing to unanticipated negative impacts.

4. Business as usual is not an option for donors, development partners and IFIs

Business as usual won't deliver resilience. Development partners, donors and IFIs need to do things differently with greater flexibility and longer term programmes that build and learn from others.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration

Building resilience cannot be achieved by organisations working alone. Working across sectors and better coordination is essential. Platforms involving multiple public and private stakeholders are needed, which bring in a diverse group including young people.

6. Inclusivity and Equity

It is absolutely essential to take an inclusive approach and recognize the needs of different groups, including people living with disabilities and marginal groups. Seeing people's risk and vulnerability through an intersectionality lens will enable the implementation of equitable resilience practices.

7. Knowledge and Methods

We already have lessons to share on building resilience (from successes and failures). This now needs to be put into use, providing crucial information to the people who need it – e.g. early warning to communities on climate related disasters. We also need common methods and approaches to be developed, and disaggregate data by sex, age, economic status, ethnicity, caste and disability.

8. Working with nature to build resilience

Working with nature to build resilience is essential to meet the challenges of the impacts of climate change. It also pays when we value the environment under full cost benefit analysis.

9. Early action and early warning – saves lives and reduces economic losses

Instead of only responding and recovering from events, donors and governments need to increase investments in preparedness, particularly in early warning and climate information services that are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable. This saves lives and economic losses.

III. Summary of Messages from Sessions

Opening Session

- Put resilience at the centre stage in how we plan, act and invest, prioritising FbF at the local level and improving social protection system to respond to climate shocks.
- Deliver finance to local communities with their full involvement from the beginning, also in infrastructure projects as this proven to be economically sound.
- Partnerships and collaborations are critical for scaling up resilience and require good listening skills, mutual respect and learning from countries across regions

Session 1: Connecting the dots - Early Warning for rapid decision making to mitigate disaster impacts

- Institutional linkage (both horizontal and vertical level) is of vital importance for effective communication and dissemination of flood early warnings.
- Donors, development partners and governments can contribute to improvements on preparedness by strengthening early warning systems.
- Decentralising budgets, planning and decision-making potentially creates an opportunity to use new, higher spatial and temporal resolution information to develop and improve hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk maps.
- Improve impact-based flood forecasting for early warning messages and information with impact outlooks to district and local decision-makers, tailored to users' needs.
- Engage with the community locally to ensure that EWS is people-centred and considers marginalised groups.
- Data gaps and sharing the data related on Hydro-Met, exposure and vulnerable data are one of the factors to reduce the effectiveness of the rapid decision making.

Session 2: Driving Scale and Sustainability for Climate Action Programs and Policies through a Systems Approach

The aim of the session was to highlight the importance of thinking about systems when planning and designing and implementing climate adaptation programme. There has already been significant discussion of coherence and cooperation between actors and across scales. This session dug deeper into examples of systems thinking with examples from community resilience building projects and from policies and national strategies.

Recommendations

- The international community needs to urgently embrace a systems approach as a means of better identifying complex climate change related and other risks as well as adaptive capacities for dealing with them. Without a systems approach, critical influencing and enabling conditions may be missed that can throw adaptation activities off track, limit the sustainability of these actions, or even contribute to unanticipated negative impacts.
- Donors and national governments must take action to commit to increasing flexible multi-sector and multi-year funding for resilience building in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change impact.
- Instead of only responding and recovering from events, donors and governments need to increase investments in preparedness, particularly in early warning and climate information services that are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable
- There is a need for multi-stakeholder engagement in CCA. This should involve improved identification of incentives and motivations for different actors to participate for example through better presentation of data and evidence in appropriate formats and economic incentives like tax reduction/tax holidays to encourage private and non-traditional actor engagement

- Governments need to encourage better cooperation across sectoral ministries to develop a comprehensive CCA plan that incorporates perspectives from the most vulnerable groups and is mainstreamed across the various sectors

Session 3: Building Resilience for All: Intersectional Approaches to Vulnerability Reduction in Asia-Pacific

- Address the lack of methodologies and approaches for measuring and understanding intersecting inequalities: champion systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex, age, economic status, ethnicity, caste and disability, to identify marginalised groups and make their different needs and capacities more visible to decision-makers, so that they can devise and implement locally appropriate solutions;
- Ensure better coordination around policies and programmes that aim to build inclusive resilience to natural hazards and climate change: promote effective vertical integration between national, sub-national and local levels of government and organisations, and horizontal lesson-sharing and coordination between different sectoral ministries/departments and organisations to scale up action on inclusive climate change adaptation and disaster risk management;
- Address the lack of longer-term inclusive programming: donors and governments should invest in comprehensive, long-term, integrated and inclusive programmes that take into account the full disaster risk management cycle and the needs and interests of specific marginalised groups;
- Ensure the continued delivery of critical systems and services (including education and health care) that promote people’s wellbeing despite environmental shocks and stresses;
- Disability advocates and their organisations can play a significant role in climate change policy planning and implementation. Taking a rights approach will create the systemic change needed for their inclusion;
- The government of Nepal is developing/modifying various acts, policies, regulations and guidelines to comply with the current needs and new federal structure which comprises three levels of government viz., federal government, provincial government, and local government. These include the climate policy, LAPA Framework, and other policy documents related to climate change and disaster risk reduction. There is a need to incorporate the gender and intersectionality considerations in Nepal in all these policy documents in order to ensure that the existing disproportionate effects of climate change and disasters in view of gender and intersectionality (caste/ethnicity) is minimized, and no one is left behind.”
- “Nothing about us without us” - no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group affected by that policy. Governments and representatives in the Pacific need to recognise and acknowledge the important role young people play as leaders, advocates, agents of change and educators in realising the implementation of the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP); and the role they play in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and low carbon development;
- Seeing people’s risk and vulnerability through an intersectionality lens enables the implementation of equitable resilience practices.

Session 4: Re-Naturing through Nature based Solutions for a Resilient Future

- Re-naturing is essential to meet the societal challenges arising out of ill effects of climate change.
- Conventional solutions (structural measures) are a hindrance to better management of eco-systems while mitigating ill effects of climate change
- Communities as agents of change who will enable mainstreaming NbS into the climate resilience narrative, policies, and actions.

Session 5: Strengthening Climate Resilience through Financial Innovation in Asia-Pacific

- As climate change progresses, there is an increase in demand among communities for dedicated response schemes and financial products to better adapt to the changing climate, to better manage their risks, diversity their incomes, improve their resilience
- Healthy financial markets including Financial institutions (FIs) and capital markets are crucial to meet the countries' NDCs and to stay within the 1.5°C climate change target
- Resilience finance programs face significant barriers to access funds on demand as well as medium- to long-tenor green financing to meet a resilient project's lifetime.
- Scaling up through replicable blended finance structures, can open up access to much-needed climate / green finance and have a very large impact in terms of SDGs.
- Key adaptation financial instruments such as dedicated response funds, concessional lending, equity participation, risk sharing instruments, grants, green bonds – are catalytic for the transformation of green markets and need to be supported through public resources.
- Platforms for a multi-stakeholders dialogue, especially for a private public sector collaboration are required for a rapid transition.
- Finance schemes need to be accompanied by capacity building at community, financial institutions and government (local and central) level, in order to support communities with adaptation of sustainable practices, to expand financial institutions capacity for green finance, and to measure impact

IV. Details of Session objectives and background

Session 1: Connecting the dots - Early Warning for rapid decision making to mitigate disaster impacts (Lead and Co-hosts: ADPC, ODI and FAO)

Description
<p>Global climate change has already had observable effects on both people's lives and environment. To save lives, early warning system is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication system to help communities prepare for multi-hazards. This session will discuss challenges, gaps, and innovative and practical approaches (policy, governance and technical) of strengthening local level early warning systems to build early action to prevent disasters and build resilient for the future.</p>
Background
<p>Early Warning Systems (EWSs) are well known as a crucial life-saving tool for multi-hazards such as floods, drought, storms, bushfires and others. According to WMO, detection, monitoring and forecasting the hazards, analyses of risks involved, dissemination of timely warning - which should carry the authority of government and activation of emergency plans to prepare and respond are the main four components to build an effective EWSs. To overcome these, the coordination across various agencies from national to local levels need to be considered and worked through the systems as the failure in one component or lack of coordination across them could lead to the failure of the whole system. This session will bring and provide opportunities to the various stakeholders across scales to discuss and share their experiences/success stories and lessons learned to be scaled up in order to have a truly transformative to build a resilient future.</p> <p>Despite that the warning messages are credited with making a significant contribution to saving many lives, however, there are still barriers to access, understanding and use of SMS warnings, including issues to literacy levels, language barriers and access to mobile SMS particularly for marginalised groups such as children, women, ethnic minorities and disabilities groups. To strengthen the EWS at the local level, engaging with the community locally to ensure that EWS is people-centred is needed. Decentralising budgets, planning and decision-making will might potentially create opportunities to empower the local governance to respond and act in time. However, this will be varies based on the different contexts for specific area and country.</p>
Objectives
<p>1: Sharing of evidence/good practices of effective EWS-Early Action in Asian countries and others in various contexts such as urban, rural and transboundary in multi-hazards.</p> <p>2: Exchanging the recommendations with innovative and practical approaches to improve EWS</p> <p>3: Sharing success stories/lessons and learned/strategies on awareness raising among national, provincial and local authorities by considering indigenous knowledge, gender inclusive as critical input into enhance emergency planning and development of warning message to enhance response capacity.</p>
Key points and messages from the session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional linkage (both horizontal and vertical level) is vital importance for effective communication and dissemination of flood early warnings• Donors, development partners and governments can contribute to improvements in on preparedness by strengthening early warning systems

- Decentralising budgets, planning and decision-making, which potentially creates an opportunity to use new, higher spatial and temporal resolution information to develop and improve hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk maps.
- Improving impact-based flood forecasting for early warning messages and information with impact outlooks to district and local decision-makers, tailored to users' needs.
- Engaging with the community locally to ensure that EWS is people-centred and considers marginalised groups.
- Data gaps and sharing the data related on Hydro-Met, exposure and vulnerable data are one of the factors to reduce the effective of the rapid decision making

Session 2: Driving Scale and Sustainability for Climate Action Programs and Policies through a Systems Approach (Lead and hosts: Mercy Corps, Practical Action, Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, and National government counterparts)

Description

This session explored the application of systems thinking to climate change programmes and policies. A facilitator walked participants through case studies to demonstrate how a systems lens can be applied to understand contextual barriers and opportunities for delivering high impact, sustainable and scalable climate change adaptation programs and policies.

Background

Many climate change projects and policies are supporting communities to better mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change and respond and adapt to a myriad of shifting conditions (environment/economic/conflict). By tackling climate change and reducing vulnerabilities, policies and projects also have the potential to address many other development challenges from livelihoods and economic development to improved governance.

To meet ambitious climate and development goals, when designing climate change interventions, we need to understand the interactions between systems and sectors. Interventions need to meet the diverse adaptation needs of communities and facilitate an enabling environment linked to government and market systems. This requires working with multiple stakeholders at multiple levels within and across sectors. A systems approach helps to identify these interactions and support the design of robust program interventions and policies that are adaptable in the face of shocks and stresses.

An effective systems lens should embed inclusion and capture the needs of diverse groups and differential vulnerabilities to climate change whilst designing solutions that address those specific needs and create space for voice, participation and decision making.

Sustainability of adaptation projects and interventions additionally requires planners, policy makers, implementers and communities to make links and connections across governance, social, environmental and market systems. Without an understanding of the interactions across these systems critical influencing and enabling factors and conditions may be missed that can throw interventions off track and limit the sustainability of these actions.

A systems lens allows a more holistic approach to engagement in climate change planning and maps incentives and motivations for different stakeholders to participate in implementing plans and interventions. Through application of a systems lens to climate change programs and policies, we can encourage

sustainability and support the design and implementation of more robust, holistic and transformational climate change programs that also deliver multiple co benefits. The implementation of commitments at the Climate Action Summit must take a systems approach if they are to be successful.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness and deepen knowledge on intersectional resilience-building through a systems thinking approach, including benefits and challenges.
2. Highlight concrete case studies on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation that have applied systems thinking.
3. Demonstrate how a systems understanding on resilience is needed within UN CAS commitments so as to build and invest in adaptive, resilient and transformative communities and economies amongst government officials, practitioners, donors, and investors.

Key points and messages from the session

The aim of the session was to highlight the importance of thinking about systems when planning and designing and implementing climate adaptation programme. There has already been significant discussion of coherence and cooperation between actors and across scales. This session dug deeper into examples of systems thinking with examples from community resilience building projects and from policies and national strategies.

Recommendations

- The international community needs to urgently embrace a systems approach as a means of better identifying complex climate change related and other risks as well as adaptive capacities for dealing with them. Without a systems approach, critical influencing and enabling conditions may be missed that can throw adaptation activities off track, limit the sustainability of these actions, or even contribute to unanticipated negative impacts
- Donors and national governments must take action to commit to increasing flexible multi-sector and multi-year funding for resilience building in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change impact
- Instead of only responding and recovering from events, donors and governments need to increase investments in preparedness, particularly in early warning and climate information services that are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable
- There is a need for multi-stakeholder engagement in CCA. This should involve improved identification of incentives and motivations for different actors to participate for example through better presentation of data and evidence in appropriate formats and economic incentives like tax reduction/tax holidays to encourage private and non-traditional actor engagement.
- Governments need to encourage better cooperation across sectoral ministries to develop a comprehensive CCA plan that incorporates perspectives from the most vulnerable groups and is mainstreamed across the various sectors

Session 3: Building resilience for all: intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction in Asia-Pacific (Lead: ODI)

Description
People’s experiences of natural hazards vary depending on socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental contexts. This session explores how different factors intersect to create exclusion, inequalities and vulnerabilities. Panellists will share approaches for understanding intersecting inequalities – including gender, age, ethnicity, economic status and disability – and how effective intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction and resilience-building can be developed in policy and practice.
Background
<p>In 2018, over 68 million people were affected by natural hazard-related disasters around the world. The Asia-Pacific nations experience more disasters than any other region. However, people’s experiences of natural hazards, climate change and climate variability vary depending on the socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental contexts in which they live. Many different factors, such as gender, age, disability and ethnicity intersect to create exclusion, inequality and vulnerabilities in disaster contexts. For instance, an older woman’s ability to evacuate in response to warnings may be restricted due to factors of poverty, disability, poor health and social isolation. Situational factors, such as where people live, access to critical systems and services for instance healthcare and education, household size and composition, and the resources available to people will also affect their ability to manage natural hazards.</p> <p>Intersectional approaches recognise that people will have different identities, needs, priorities and capacities which are not static, and will shift and change over time. Intersectional analysis cuts across simple categorisation to unpack vulnerabilities and resilience, but intersectional perspectives rarely feature in disaster and climate research, policy or programming, which continue to focus on ‘vulnerable groups’ as a collective category, or on specific types of marginalised and vulnerable people.</p> <p>Effective intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction and resilience building must be developed and integrated into policy and programming across different groups and agencies to ensure that those who are most at risk in the Asia-Pacific region are not left behind. Governments and agencies must promote inclusive and equitable access to all systems, policies and processes to support people’s escape from poverty, promote their longer-term development outcomes and build their resilience to climate change and disasters.</p>
Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop a greater understanding of how different factors intersect to create exclusion, inequality and vulnerabilities over a person’s life course, within a multi-hazard context;2. Establish shared knowledge of intersectional approaches organisations are taking to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to different intersecting inequalities - including gender, age, ethnicity, caste, class and disability - within different hazard contexts in Asia3. Promote a multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships to build intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction and resilience building to climate change and disasters in policy and practice

Key points and messages from the session

- Address the lack of methodologies and approaches for measuring and understanding intersecting inequalities: **champion systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex, age, economic status, ethnicity, caste and disability**, to identify marginalised groups and make their different needs and capacities more visible to decision-makers, so that they can devise and implement locally appropriate solutions;
- Ensure better coordination around policies and programmes that aim to build inclusive resilience to natural hazards and climate change: **promote effective vertical integration** between national, sub-national and local levels of government and organisations, and **horizontal lesson-sharing and coordination** between different sectoral ministries/departments and organisations to scale up action on inclusive climate change adaptation and disaster risk management;
- Address the lack of longer-term inclusive programming: donors and governments should **invest in comprehensive, long-term, integrated and inclusive programmes** that take into account the full disaster risk management cycle and the needs and interests of specific marginalised groups;
- **Ensure the continued delivery of critical systems and services** (including education and health care) that promote people's wellbeing despite environmental shocks and stresses;
- Disability advocates and their organisations can play a significant role in climate change policy planning and implementation. **Taking a rights approach will create the systemic change** needed for their inclusion;
- The government of Nepal is developing/modifying various acts, policies, regulations and guidelines to comply with the current needs and new federal structure which comprises three levels of government viz., federal government, provincial government, and local government. These include the climate policy, LAPA Framework, and other policy documents related to climate change and disaster risk reduction. There is a **need to incorporate the gender and intersectionality considerations in Nepal** in all these policy documents in order to ensure that the existing disproportionate effects of climate change and disasters in view of gender and intersectionality (caste/ethnicity) is minimized, and no one is left behind.”
- “Nothing about us without us” - no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group affected by that policy. Governments and representatives in the Pacific need to **recognise and acknowledge the important role young people play as leaders, advocates, agents of change and educators** in realising the implementation of the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP); and the role they play in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and low carbon development;
- **Seeing people's risk and vulnerability through an intersectionality lens enables the implementation of equitable resilience practices.**

What three words come to mind when you think of intersectionality?



Session 4: Re-Naturing through Nature Based Solutions for a Resilient Future

(Leads: ADPC, IUCN, and FAO)

Description
<p>Climate Change is a major threat to the global ecosystem and Nature based Solutions (NbS) are currently fundamental in enhancing adaptive capacity by providing vital link between sustainable socioeconomic development with biodiversity and ecosystem conservation to achieve climate resilience. The session aims to share evidence from field and explore strategies to mainstream NbS into climate resilience narrative, policies and actions.</p>
Background
<p>Climate Change is inevitable. Due to the distinct climatic variability across the Asia Pacific, majority of the countries of the region are subject to climate change effects including occurrence of extreme events. Additionally, anthropogenic intervention has resulted in degradation of the natural ecosystem resulting in reduced resilience to shocks and stress and some natural resources exploited beyond their regenerative capacity. The effect of these changes is likely to be worse in the least developed and developing economies in the region due to their low coping capacity and lack of awareness on the issue. Though structural measures were more prevalent to mitigate extreme events but over time policy makers and planners slowly shifted towards non-structural measures to better manage eco-systems while mitigating ill effects of climate change. Sustainable existence of the world's population depends solely on availability of resources while simultaneously striving to preserve the integrity and intrinsic value of the ecosystems. Healthy and diverse ecosystems are also more resilient to extreme events as they act as natural buffers to climate-related shocks and stresses. Thus, healthy ecosystems play a key role in building climate resilience of the most vulnerable and contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity. Nature based Solution (NbS) thus plays a vital role in building resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems.</p> <p>Nature based Solutions (NbS) is a recent concept that link sustainable socioeconomic development with biodiversity and ecosystem conservation approaches as part of an overall strategy towards climate resilience, contributing to the Global frameworks and agreements e.g. the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction besides safeguarding human well-being in ways that enhance the resilience of ecosystems. NbS has been conceptualized and promoted by organizations like IUCN, FAO and EU and is considered as the future for sustainable existence of mankind. This session aims to include NbS concepts of Climate Adaptation Services, Ecological Restoration, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and discuss the implementation approach, use and non-use values, in monetary terms to implement NbS complemented with scientific and case-specific knowledge of the eco-system in an adaptive decision-making process involving the relevant stakeholders. The session will feature experts across the above spectrum of NbS in both policy and practice who will showcase nature-based actions being undertaken around the globe especially Asia Pacific region to build resilience for ecosystems, communities, and economies. Discussion will also focus on the importance and implementation of NbS quality criteria and standards, opportunities and challenges both financial as well as institutional, involvement of youth as well as communities as agents of change and explore the transformational change and integrated strategies that will enable mainstreaming NbS into the climate resilience narrative, policies, and actions. The ultimate goal is to enable local communities to lead the</p>

integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the management of their ecosystems, through viable nature-based solutions and risk resilient natural infrastructure.

Objectives

Climate Resilience through Nature based Solution is the necessity for the Asia Pacific region as it is the most vulnerable region of the globe and transformative resilience-building actions, initiatives, policies, technologies, and financial innovations are the need of the hour. The session had the following objectives:

1. Sharing of evidence of effective Nature based Solutions (e.g. Ecological Restoration, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate Adaptation Services, Green Infrastructure, Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction) to address global societal challenges of climate change, disaster risk, food & water security and Economic & Social Development.
2. Relating evidence of NbS to policy decisions at regional and national scale in Asia Pacific to ensure effectiveness through tools and methods to support planning, implementing as well as Monitoring & Evaluation.
3. strategy to scale-up and scale-out NbS by linking Science, Practice and Policy - opportunities and challenges both institutional and financial.

Key points and messages from the session

- Re-naturing is essential to meet the societal challenges arising out of ill effects of climate change.
- Conventional solutions (structural measures) are a hindrance to better management of ecosystems while mitigating ill effects of climate change
- Communities as agents of change who will enable mainstreaming NbS into the climate resilience narrative, policies, and actions.

Session 5: Strengthening Climate Resilience through Financial Innovation in Asia-Pacific

(Leads SEI, Mercy Corps and RCCC)

Description
<p>This session explored how the various stakeholders in Asia Pacific including donors, DFIs, FIs, regulators, civil society organizations, can take action to catalyze and strengthen climate resilience in Asia-Pacific through financial innovation. It looked at opportunities and challenges and a climate action agenda for scale-up and SDGs impact.</p>
Background
<p>As climate change progresses, demand is increasing by communities across Asia to strengthen their resilience and disaster readiness, as well as and pursue opportunities for scaling-up green solutions, be it flood preparations, weather-resilient crops, improved water, sanitation, or waste management, green or energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy and microgrids.</p> <p>At the same time, achieving the climate goals set out in the Paris Agreement is going to require tapping into various public and private sector funds through dedicated programs and financial markets, as public funds are - and will remain in the foreseeable future - much too limited to make up the financing bulk. This implies a large market opportunity for blended finance with an increasing role for DFIs, GCF, GEF and other dedicated financial tools - catalyzing public and private capital in a timely manner and towards projects with a high resiliency and development impact.</p> <p>Piloted disaster readiness and resilience programs face a dearth of finance, at either the time of need or the required medium- to long-term tenors. Reconstructing livelihoods, following major disasters, through financial institutions or dedicated financial structures is of great importance for an effective response.</p> <p>The lack of knowledge about green technologies and the revenue streams they generate, the lack of green financial products and incentives appropriately tailored to the green technologies, and actual or perceived risks, remains.</p> <p>This session focussed on exploring climate resilience financial innovations that are moving away from comfort zones and confronting risks with a need for well mitigated solutions. Such innovations focus on community's well-being, coping with natural disasters and their transformation for resilience. Furthermore, the session explored how policy interventions by regulators and government, and CSOs can attract regional financing programs and international investment in this segment across the region. It discussed how to measure and track the SDG impact at the grassroots to reduce poverty, increase livelihoods, provide employment, boost innovation, gender equality and sustainability.</p>
Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Showcase financial innovations in the AP region that may help to scale-up green, resilient approaches through dedicated schemes and the financial systems for consideration for United Nations Climate Action Summit.2. Set out lessons learned about the different elements needed by different stakeholders -- businesses, Governments, CSOs, investors -- and outlines the policy agenda3. Deepen understanding about how to measure the SDG impact

Key points and messages from the session

- As climate change progresses, there are increasing demands among communities for dedicated response schemes and for financial products to better adapt to the changing climate, to better manage their risks, diversify their incomes, and improve their resilience.
- Healthy financial markets, including Financial Institutions (FIs) and capital markets are crucial to meet the countries' NDCs and to stay within the 1.5°C climate change target.
- Resilience finance programs face significant barriers to access funds on demand, as do medium- to long-tenor green finance schemes, to meet a resilient project's lifetime.
- Scaling up through replicable blended finance structures can open up access to much-needed climate / green finance and have a very large impact in terms of SDGs.
- Key adaptation financial instruments, such as dedicated response funds, concessional lending, equity participation, risk sharing instruments, grants, green bonds – are catalytic for the transformation of green markets and need to be supported through public resources.
- Platforms for a multi-stakeholder dialogue, especially for a private public sector collaboration, are required for a rapid transition.
- Finance schemes need to be accompanied by capacity building at community, financial institutions and government (local and central) levels, in order to support communities with adaptation of sustainable practices, to expand financial institutions capacity for green finance, and to measure impact.